

ANNUAL REPORT

1946.


On the Health of the
Rural Sanitary District
of the
Isle of Wight

BY

JOHN MILLS,

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Medical Officer of Health.



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HEALTH OF THE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT
of the
ISLE OF WIGHT.

County Hall,
Newport,
Isle of Wight.
September, 1947.

To the Members of the Isle of Wight Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the health of the District for the year 1946.

The report is compiled from the records of my predecessor. The need for houses remains acute.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's figures) ...	15,440
Area (in acres)	57,463
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946)	5,588
Rateable Value	£109,545
Sum represented by a penny rate	£417

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	19.9
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) ...	34.5
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	15.0
Death rate from Puerperal causes per 1,000 (live and still births)	3.1
Death rate of infants under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	26.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	29.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	32

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority :—

Medical Officer of Health: John Mills, M.B., Ch.B.,
M.R.C.S., Eng., L.R.C.P., Lond., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors :—

H. B. Cullin, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

C. V. Smith, Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

WATER SUPPLY.

During 1946, the Senior Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Health carried out a water supply survey of the whole of the Isle of Wight and embodied his findings in a comprehensive report, a summary of which has been widely studied by all the Island Authorities.

Briefly stated, he reached the conclusion "that the flexible use of a number of systems unavoidably dispersed over a considerable area whose resources are sufficient but not abundant can best be achieved under a single unified control and that the arguments in favour of a Joint Water Board for the whole Island . . . are overwhelmingly strong". In the meantime the Rural District depends on its many sources of water and the scheme devised by its Consulting Engineers for the exploitation of the underground sources of water at Calbourne should put the supply to the five Parishes of the West Wight on a sound basis and alleviate the serious shortages which occur annually during the summer months especially in the Freshwater district.

The existing supplies are periodically submitted for bacteriological examination and where an unsatisfactory report is received immediate measures are taken to trace and remedy the trouble.

In all, forty-seven samples for bacteriological examination were taken during the year, thirty-five of raw water and twelve of treated water. Of the thirty-five samples of raw water, nine were found to be unsatisfactory. Of the twelve samples of treated water all were found to be satisfactory.

The raw water at Carpenters on 3rd September, 1946, showed a gross degree of pollution with coli-aerogenes, organisms but the sample taken on 28th October, 1946, showed that the water had greatly improved.

Again, a raw sample from the Totland supply on the 29th April, 1946, was found to be grossly polluted but later samples showed the water to be free from pollution.

On the 3rd September, 1946, a sample of the raw water from Apse showed gross pollution with coli-aerogenes organisms but later tests showed improvement.

The water at Calbourne on the 11th February, 1946, was found to contain coli organisms of the surface soil and faecal types to a negligible degree, on the 29th April, 1946, it showed a gross degree of pollution with coli-aerogenes organisms, and on the 23rd September, 1946, there was moderate pollution with coli-aerogenes organisms.

All the pumped water supplies of the Council are chlorinated, as are two of the gravity supplies. All the results after treatment by chlorination were satisfactory.

The chlorinator for the Apse supply to Newchurch, which gave a considerable amount of trouble in 1945, gave no trouble and treatment of the water continued satisfactorily throughout the year.

Bacteriological investigations of water are also carried out at the request of private individuals at their own expense.

The number of houses connected to public water mains in the Rural District is 4651.

HOLIDAY CAMPS.

I would like to draw attention here to the part holiday camps can play in affecting the public health. Large numbers of individuals collected from all parts of the mainland come and live a communal life. A well run camp will not adversely affect the public health but the following must be kept under constant supervision :—

1. Water supply ;
2. Drainage ;
3. Storage of food ;
4. Disposal of refuse.

It is difficult to say where the provision of decent, properly cooked food comes in relation to the local authority, but it is a fact that in certain places advantage is taken of the post-war scramble for holidays and complaints are frequently received.

WORK OF THE SANITARY STAFF.

Total number of visits of inspection made	...	...	2089
Houses inspected	...	...	406
Houses re-inspected	...	...	255
Other inspections (including coswheds, new buildings, food premises, etc.)	...	...	1428

During the year building trade activity has necessitated a large increase of work in inspections and the issuing of building licences on behalf of the Ministry of Works (Civil Building Regulations 56A).

HOUSING.

Number of new houses completed during 1946	...	32
(of which 8 were Council Houses)		
Number of new houses under construction at 31-12-46		23

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The following table shows the amount of unsound food dealt with during the year :—

Canned food	...	...	...	...	22 lbs.
Beef	...	...	...	...	234 lbs.
Ox tongue	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Dried peas	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Dates	...	...	...	...	70 lbs.
Currants	...	...	...	...	100 lbs.
Sultanas	...	...	...	...	50 lbs.
Raisins	...	...	...	...	25 lbs.
Prunes	...	...	...	...	25 lbs.
Flour	...	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ sack
Barley Flakes	...	...	...	...	60 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	378 lbs.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The prevalence of non-notifiable Infectious Diseases is estimated from the weekly returns of the Head Teachers of the Schools. These returns for the year show that there were 20 cases of Mumps, 20 of Influenza and Influenzal colds, 70 of Chicken Pox, 2 of Scabies, 1 of Impetigo, 9 of Ringworm, 6 of German Measles, 6 of Jaundice, and 1 of Conjunctivitis.

There was an increase in the number of notifications of infectious diseases, 136 as against 77 in 1945. Measles and Scarlet Fever both increased, but Diphtheria was again absent.

The percentage of school children immunised against Diphtheria is now 71.6, and of children under school age 36.9.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE DURING THE YEAR.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Total cases notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to hospital.</i>	<i>Total deaths.</i>
Measles	59	1	—
Scarlet Fever	22	12	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	1	—
Pneumonia	9	—	—
Ophthalmic Neonatorum	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	35	—	—
Brucella Abortus Infection	—	—	—
Post Vaccinal Encephalitis	1	1	—
Totals	136	16	—

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Erysipelas.	Post Vaccinal Encephalitis.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
2 „ „ 3	1	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
3 „ „ 4	2	—	—	—	—	6	8	—	—
4 „ „ 5	1	—	—	1	—	5	4	—	1
5 „ „ 10	10	—	—	—	—	33	15	—	—
10 „ „ 15	3	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—
15 „ „ 20	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
20 „ „ 35	—	—	5	1	—	3	—	—	—
35 „ „ 45	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 „ „ 65	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	2	—
65 and over	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	22	—	6	9	1	59	35	3	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN PARISHES.

Age.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Measles.	Erysipelas.	Post Vaccinal Encephalitis.
Arreton	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Bembridge	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brading	1	—	13	—	1	—	19	—	—
Brighstone	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Brooke	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Calbourne	1	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	1
Chale	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Freshwater	2	—	15	3	1	—	4	1	—
Gatcombe	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
Godshill	7	—	—	—	—	—	17	—	—
Newchurch	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Niton	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shalfleet	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Shorwell	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
Totland	—	—	7	2	—	—	—	—	—
Yarmouth	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Totals	22	—	35	6	9	1	59	3	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.					Deaths.				
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary	
	Totals	M.	F.	M.	F.	Totals	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 „ „ 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 „ „ 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ „ 20	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ „ 25	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 „ „ 35	3	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
35 „ „ 45	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 „ „ 55	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
55 „ „ 65	3	3	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
	*12	6	3	1	2	5	4	1	—	—

* Included in this total are two transfers from the mainland.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified.	Cases.		Vision un-impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Death.
	Treated.					
	At home	In hospital				
Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—

